

HIS  
MAJESTIES  
ANSWER  
TO THE  
PROPOSITIONS  
OF  
Both Houses of PARLIAMENT.

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Published by His MAJESTIES special command.

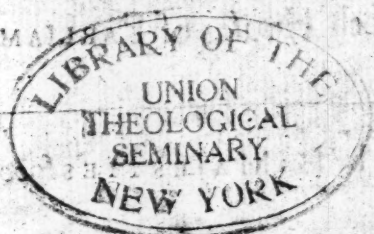
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QUESTIONS  
AND ANSWERS  
TO THE  
POSITIONS  
OF



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His M A J E S T I E S *Answer to the Propositions of*  
both Houses of P A R L I A M E N T.

**B**Efore We shall give you Our Answer to your Petition and Propositions, We shall tell you, that We are now clearly satisfied, why the Method, Which We traced out to you by Our Message of the twentieth of January, and have since so often pressed upon you, as the proper way to compose the distractions of this Kingdom, and render it truly happy, hath been hitherto declined, and is at length thought fit to be looked upon; We now see plainly, (and desire that you, and all other Our good Subjects should do so too) that the Cabalists of this businesse have with great Prudence reserved themselves, untill due preparations should be made for their Designe.

We would not be understood, That We intend to fix this Designe upon both, or either House of Parliament; We utterly professe against it, being most confident of the Loyalty, good affections and integrity of the intentions of that great Body, and knowing well that very many of both Houses were absent, and many dissented from all those particulars We complain of: But We do beleve, and accordingly professe to all the world, that the Malignity of this Designe (as dangerous to the Laws of this Kingdom, the Peace of the same, and the Liberties of all Our good Subjects, as to Our Self, and Our just Prerogative) hath proceeded from the subtile Informations, mischievous Practices, and evill Counsels of ambitious turbulent Spirits, disaffected to Gods true Religion, and the Unity of the Professors thereof, Our Honour and Safety, and the publike Peace and prosperity of Our people, not without a strong influence upon the very actions of both Houses. But how faulty soever others are, We shall (with Gods assistance) endeavour to discharge Our duty with uprightnesse of heart; And therefore since these Propositions come to Us in the name of both Houses of Parliament, We shall take a more particular notice of every of them.

It is asked, *That all the Lords and others of Our Privy Councell, and such* (We know now what you mean by *such*, but We have cause to think you mean *all*) *great Officers and Ministers of State, either at home or beyond the Seas*, (For care is taken to leave out no Person or place, that Our dishonour may be sure not to be bounded within this Kingdom, though no subtile Insinuations at such a distance can probably be beleaved to have been the cause of Our distractions and dangers) *should be put from Our Privy Councell, and from those Offices and employments, unlesse they be approved by both Houses of Parliament*, how faithfull soever We have found them to Us and the publike, and how far soever they have bin from offending against any Law, the only rule they had or any others ought to have to walk by. We therefore to this part of this demand return you

this Answer, That We are willing to grant that they shall take a larger Oath then you yourselves desire in your 11. Demand, for maintaining not of any part but of the whole Law; And We have and do assure you, That We will be carefull to make election of such persons in those places of trust, as shall have given good testimonies of their abilities and their integrities, and against whom there can be no just cause of exception, whereon reasonably to ground a difference; That if We have or shall be mistaken in Our election, We have and do assure you, that there is no man so neare to Us in place or affection, whom we will not leave to the Justice of the Law, If you will bring a particular charge and sufficient proofs against him, And that we have given you (the best pledge of the effects of such a promise on Our part, and the best security for the performance of their duty on theirs) a *Trienniall Parliament*, the apprehension of whose Justice will in all probability make them wary how they provoke it, and Us wary how We chuse such, as by the discovery of their faults may in any degree seem to discredit Our election. But that without any shadow of a fault objected, only perhaps because they follow their conscience, and preserve the established Laws, and agree not in such Votes, or assent not to such Bills, as some persons, who have now too great an Influence even upon both Houses, judge or seem to judge to be for the publike good, and as are agreeable to that new *Utopia* of Religion and Government into which they endeavour to transform this Kingdom; (for We remember what names, and for what Reasons you left out in the Bill offered Us concerning the *Militia*, which you had your selves recommended in the Ordinance) We will never consent to the displacing of any, whom for their former merits from, and affection to Us and the publike, We have intrusted, since We conceive, That to do so, would take away both from the affection of Our servants the care of our service, and the Honour of our Justice. And we the more wonder, That it should be askt by you of Us, since it appears by the 12. Demand, That your selves count it reasonable, after the present turn is served, *that the Judges and Officers who are then placed may hold their places quam diu se bene gesserint*. And We are resolved to be as carefull of those We have chosen, as you are of those you would chuse, and to remove none, till they appear to Us, to have otherwise behaved themselves. or shall be evicted by legall proceedings to have done so.

But this Demand (as unreasonable as it is) is but one link of a great chain, & but the first round of that Ladder, by which our Just, Ancient, Regall Power is endeavoured to be fetched down to the ground. For it appears plainly, that it is not with the persons now chosen, but with Our choosing that you are displeased; For you demand, *That the persons put into the places & employments of those who shall be removed, may be approved by both Houses*; which is so far (as to some it may at first sight appear) from being lesse then the power of nomination, that of two things (of which we will never grant either) We would sooner be content that you should nominate and we approve, then you approve & We nominate; The neerer nomination being so far from being any thing, that if We could do no more, We would never take the pains to do that, when We would onely hazard those whom We esteemed, to the scorn of a refusal, if they hapned nor



to be agreeable not onely to the Judgement, but to the passion, interest or humor of the present major part of either Houle. Not to speak now of the great factions, animosities and divisions which this power will introduce in both Houses, between both Houses, and in the severall Countries, for the choice of persons to be sent to that place where that power was, and between the persons that were so chosen. Neither is this strange Portion prescribed to Us onely for once, for the cure of a present, pressing, desperate disease, but for a dyet to Us and Our Posterity; It is demanded, *That Our Councillors, all Chief Officers both of Law and State, Commanders of forts and Castles, and all Peers hereafter made* (as to voting, without which how little is the rest <sup>to</sup>) *be approved of* (that is, chosen) *by them from time to time*, and rather then it should ever be left to the Crown (to whom it onely doth and shall belong) *if any place fall voyd in the intermission of Parliament, the major part of the approved Councill is to approve them.* Neither is it onely demanded, that We should quit the Power and Right Our predecessors have had of appointing Persons in these places, but for Counsellors We are to be restrained, as well in the number, as in the persons, and a power must be annext to these places, which their Predecessors had not; And indeed if this power were past to them, it were not fit We should be trusted to choose those, who were to be trusted as much as We.

It is demanded, *That such matters as concern the publike, and are proper for the high Court of Parliament, (which is Our Great and Supream Councill) may be debated, resolved and transacted onely in Parliament, and not elswhere, and such as presume to do any thing to the contrary shall be reserved to the Censure and Judgement of the Parliament, and such other matters of State, as are proper for Our Privy Councill, shall be debated and concluded by such of Our Nobility* (though indeed, if being made by Us they may not Vote without the Consent of both Houses, We are rather to call them your Nobility) *and others, as shall be from time to time chosen for that place, by approbation of both Houses of Parliament; and that no publike Act concerning the affairs of the Kingdom, which are proper for Our Privy Councill, may be esteemed of any validity, as proceeding from the Royall Authority, unlesse it be done by the Advice and Consent of the major part of Our Councill, attested under their hands:* Which Demands are of that Nature, that to grant them were in effect at once to depose both Our Self and Our Posterity.

These being past, We may be waited on bare-headed; We may have Our hand kist: The Stile of Majesty continued to Us; And the Kings Authority, declared by both Houses of Parliament, may be still the Stile of your Commands; We may have Swords and Maces carried before Us, and please Our Self with the sight of a Crown and Scepter, (and yet even these Twigs would not long flourish, when the Stock upon which they grew were dead) but as to true and reall Power We should remain but the outside; but the Picture, but the signe of a King. We were ever willing that Our Parliament should debate, resolve, and transact such matters as are proper for them, as far as they are proper for them: And We heartily wish, that they would be as carefull not to extend their Debates and Resolutions beyond what is proper to them, that multitudes of things punishable, and causes determinable by the Ordinary Judica-

tures, may not be entertained in Parliament, and so cause a long, chargeable, fruitlesse attendance of Our People, and (by Degrees) draw to you as well all the causes, as all the faults of *Westminster-Hall*, and divert your proper businesse; That the course of Law be no wayes diverted, much lesse disturbed, as was actually done by the stop of the proceedings against a Riot in *Southwark*, by Order of the House of Commons, in a time so riotous and tumultuous, as much increased the danger of Popular insolencies, by such a countenance to Riots, and discountenance of Law; That you descend not to the leisure of recommending Lecturers to Churches, nor ascend to the Legislative power, by commanding (the Law not having yet commanded it) that they whom you recommend be received, although neither the Parson nor Bishop do approve of them; And that the Refusers (according to the course so much formerly complained of to have bin used at the Councell Table) be not sent for to attend to shew cause; At least, that you would consider conveniencie, if not Law, and recommend none, but who are well known to you to be Orthodox, Learned, and Moderate, or at least such as have taken Orders, and are not notorious depravers of the Book of Common Prayer; A care which appeareth by the Discourses, Sermons and persons of some recommended by you, not to have been hitherto taken, and it highly concerns both you in duty, and the Common wealth in the consequences, that it should have been taken; that neither one estate transact what is proper for two, nor two what is proper for three, and consequently, that (contrary to Our declared will) Our Forts may not be seized, Our Arms may not be removed, Our Moneyes may not be stoppt, Our legall Directions may not be countermanded by you, nor We desired to countermand them Our Self, nor such entrances made upon a reall warre against Us, upon preence of an imaginary war against you, & a *Chimera* of necessity. So farre do you passe beyond your limits, whilest you seem by your Demand to be strangely straitned within them. At least We could have wisht you would have expressed, what matters you meant as *fit to be transacted onely in Parliament*, and what you meant by *onely in Parliament*. You have of (late) been perswaded by the new Doctrines of some few to thinke that proper for your debates, which hath not used to be at all debated within those walls, but beene trusted wholly with Our Predecessours and Us, and to transact those things which without the Regall Authority, since there were Kings of this Kingdome were never transacted: It therefore concerns Us the more that you speak Out, and that both We and Our people may either know the bottome of your Demands, or know them to be bottomlesse. What concernes more the Publick, and is more (indeed) proper for the high Court of Parliament, then the making of Lawes: which not onely ought there to be transacted, but can be transacted no where else; but then you must admit Us to be a part of the Parliament, you must not (as the sense is of this part of this Demand, if it have any) deny the freedome of Our Answer, when We have as much right to reject what We think unreasonable, as you have to propose what you think convenient or necessary; nor is it possible Our Answers either to Bills, or any other Propositions should be wholly free, if We may not use the Liberty of e-

very one of you, and of every Subject, and receive advice (without their danger who shall give it) from any person known, or unknown, sworn or unsworn in these matters in which the Manage of Our Vote is trusted by the Law, to Our own Judgement and Conscience, which how best to inform, is (and ever shall be) left likewise to Us; and most unreasonable it were that two Estates proposing something to the Third, that Third should be bound to take no advice, whether it were fit to passe, but, from those two that did propose it. We shall ever in these things which are trusted wholly to Us by the Law, not decline to hearken to the Advice of Our great Councell, and shall use to heare willingly the free debates of Our Privy Councell (whensoever Wee may be suffered to have them for sending for, and they shall not be terrified from that freedom, by Votes and Brands of Malignants and Enemies to the State, for advising what no Law forbids to advise) but We will retain Our Power of admitting no more to any Councell then the nature of the businesse requires, and of discouraging with whom We please, of what We please, and informing Our Understanding by debate with any Persons who may be well able to Inform and Advise Us in some particular, though their Qualities, Education or other Abilities may not make them so fit to be of Our sworn Councell, and not tie Our Self up not to heare any more then twenty five (and those not chosen also lute-ly by Us) Out of a Kingdome so replenished with Judicious and Experienced Persons in severall kinds. And though We shall (with the proportionable consideration due to them) alwayes weigh the Advices both of Our Great and Privie Councell, yet We shall also look upon their Advices, as Advices, not as Commands or Impositions; upon them as Our Counsellours, not as Our Tutors, and Guardians, and Upon Our self as their King, not as their Pupil, or Ward; for whatsoever of Regality were by the modesty of Interpretation left in Us in the first part of the second Demand, as to the Parliament, is taken from Us in the second part of the same, and placed in this newfangled kind of Counsellours, whose power is such and so expressed by it, that in all publick Acts concerning the Affairs of this Kingdome, which are proper for Our Privy Councell (for whose Advice all Publick Acts are sometimes proper though never necessary) they are desired to be admitted joynt Patentees with Vs in the Regality, and it is not plainly expressed whether they mean Vs so much as a single Vote in these Affairs: But it is plain they mean Vs no more at most then a single Vote in them, & no more power then every one of the rest of Our Fellow Counsellours; onely leave to Vs, out of their respect and duty, (and that only is left of all Our ancient Power) a choice, whether these that are thus to be joyned with (or rather set over) Us, shall be fifteen, or twenty five, and great care is taken that the Oath which these Men shall take, shall be such, in the framing the form of which (though sure We are not wholly unconcerned in it) We may be wholly excluded, and that wholly reserved to be agreed upon by both Houses of Parliament.

And to shew that no more Care is taken of Our safety, then of Our power, after so great indignities offered to Vs, and countenanced by those who were most obliged to resent them: after Our town & Fort kept from Vs (from which  
if



if it were no otherwise Ours than the whole Kingdome is. We can no more legally be kept out then out of Our whole Kingdome, which sure your selves will not deny to be treason) Our Armes, Our Goods sent away, and Our Money stopt from Us, Our Guards (in which We have no other Intention then to hinder the end of these things from being proportionable to their beginnings) are not onely desired to be dismissed before satisfaction of the injuries, punishment of the injurers, and care for Our future Security from the like: But it is likewise desired, (and for this Law is pretended, and might as well have been for the rest, which yet with some ingenuity are it seems acknowledged to be but Desires of Grace) that we shall not for the future raise any Guards or extraordinary Forces, But in case of actual Rebellion, or Invasion, which if it had been Law, and so observed in the time of Our famous Predecessours, few of those Victories which have made this Nation famous in other parts, could have been legally achieved, nor could Our blessed Predecessour Queen Elizabeth have defended Her self in 88. And if no Forces must be leaved till rebellions and Invasions (which will not stay for the calling of Parliaments, and their consent for raising of Forces) be actual, they must undoubtedly (at least most probably) be effectual and prevalent.

And as neither care is taken for Our Rights Honour, nor safety as a Prince, so Our Rights as a private Person are endeavoured to be had from Us, it being asked, that it may be unlawfull and punishable, not onely to conclude, but even to consent of any marriage with any Person for Our own Children, or to place Governors about them, without consent of Parliament, and in the intermission of those, without the consent of Our good Lords of the Council, that We may not onely be in a more despicable state then any of Our Predecessours, but in a meaner and viler condition then the lowest of Our Subjects, who value no liberty more, then that of the free Education and Marriage of their Children, from which We are asked to debar Our Self, and have the more reason to take it ill, that We are so, because for Our choice of a Governor for Our Son, and of a Husband for Our Daughter, (in which the Protestant Religion was Our Principal consideration) We conceived We had reason to expect your present favour, and the increase of your future trusts.

We suppose these Demands by this time to appeare such as the Demanders cannot be supposed to have any such real sense of Us as hath been long pretended, they are so much in the style, not onely of small, but of Conquerours, and as little to be excused for removing of jealousies (for which end they are said to be asked, and that is not as Merchants ask at first much more then they will take, but as most necessary to effect it, which (if they be) God help this poore Kingdome, and those who are in the hands of such persons, whose jealousies nothing else will remove) which indeed is such a way, as if there being differences and suits between two persons, whereof one would have from the other severall parcels of his ancient Land, he should propose to him by way of Accomplishing that he would quit to him all those in question, with the rest of his Estate as the most necessary and effectual means to remove all those suits and differences. But We call God to witnesse, that as for Our Subjects sake these Rights are vested in Us, so for their sakes, as well as for Our own, We are resolved not to quit them, nor to leave them (though by Parliamentary way) the equal, happy, well poised and never known to be disturbed Constitution of the Government of this Kingdome, nor to make Our self a King of England a Duke of Venice, and this of a Kingdome a Republicque.

FINIS.



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